

1962

## News and Notes

Florida Historical Society  
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## NEWS AND NOTES

### *Local Societies and Commissions*

*Florida Anthropological Society:* The Society chose St. Augustine as the site of its first Annual Dig, which was held July 21-22, 1962. Lots were excavated on Charlotte Street just north of the Oldest House and old foundations and a wealth of artifacts were discovered. Dr. Hale Smith of Florida State University was in charge of the Dig which was attended by both professional and student archaeologists from various parts of the state. Findings were so extensive that the St. Augustine Restoration Commission allowed Dr. Smith and his crew of students from FSU to work at the site several extra days to complete their excavations.

*St. Augustine Historical Society:* The local historical scene is minus the presence of three figures of note. Albert Manucy, regional historian for the National Park Service left on September 4, 1962, to work for several months in Spain under a Fulbright Research Scholarship. Accompanied by his wife and family, he will seek out records pertaining to the development of St. Augustine, and will study pre-1763 Spanish building construction techniques. Luis Rafael Arana, supervisory historian at the *Castillo de San Marcos*, has moved with his wife to Gainesville to fulfil residence requirements for the Ph.D. in history at the University of Florida. Robert Gold, Restoration Commission historian, has also moved his operations to the University of Florida where he is tapping the rich resources of the P. K. Yonge Memorial Library of Florida History for a study of the transition from Spanish to English rule in 1763-1768. He will present it as a doctoral dissertation.

A bill creating a federal Quadricentennial Commission has passed both houses of Congress and been signed by President Kennedy. The eleven member commission will be composed of two members each from the Senate and House of Representatives, an executive director from the National Park Service, and six members at large to be appointed by the President.

The first major ceremonies anticipating the Quadricentennial year took place October 18, 1962, when Spanish Ambassador

Antonio Garrigues brought to St. Augustine the invitation of the city of Aviles, Spain, to be its "sister" city. St. Augustine sent a delegation to Aviles in November.

*Pensacola Historical Society:* The Society's president emeritus, T. T. Wentworth, was honored on September 6, 1962, at the dedication of a marker testifying to his long efforts on behalf of preserving the history of the Pensacola area. Mr. Wentworth is the founder of a notable historical museum and has for more than twenty-five years been a leading advocate of the marking of historical sites in Florida.

At its annual meeting in Buffalo, New York, on August 24, 1962, the American Association for State and Local History voted a certificate of commendation to Mr. Wentworth "for outstanding leadership and service in working to make the history of Pensacola . . . known and appreciated." In further recognition of his distinguished services, this Society awarded Mr. Wentworth a plaque at its November meeting. A. O. Mortenson, Society president, made the award.

*Martin County Historical Society:* Last October the Society launched another season of historical and cultural events featuring dinners, social gatherings, art classes, museum tours, films, and lectures. The Society participates in the operation of the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge Museum. In 1961-1962, attendance at the Museums reached almost 60,000 people. Both institutions have received international notice in news publications during the past year. Two new members have been appointed to the Museum Commission. Mrs. John L. Taylor and Mrs. James Owens assumed the posts formerly held by Mrs. Helen Eng and Mrs. George Jordan.

*Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale:* The Society was incorporated on February 14, 1962, with the following charter members: Boyd H. Anderson, Sr., Marston Bates, Mrs. A. J. Beck, Thomas O. Berryhill, Tom M. Bryan, August Burghard, John S. Burwell, Mrs. Curtis Byrd, Stephen A. Calder, N. B. Cheaney, Robert L. Clark, George W. English, Hamilton C. Forman, Albert W. Erkins, J. B. Fraser, Robert H. Gore, Sr., Harry P. Greep, Ernest A. Hall, Mrs. Florence C. Hardy, Mrs. M. A. Hottt, Carl A. Hia-

asen, F. R. Humphries, George Leaird, Robert B. Lochrie, David D. Oliver, Jr., Leigh Robinson, Paul G. Rogers, Byron Snyder, Norman Sommers, Thomas N. Stilwell, Jr., Mrs. Frank Stranahan, Mrs. Charles L. Swaggerty, Carl P. Weidling, Sr., Carl P. Weidling, Jr., and E. Thomas Wilburn.

August Burghard was chosen president and treasurer; Carl P. Weidling, Jr., vice president; Mrs. A. J. Beck, secretary; and N. B. Cheaney, George W. English, and Mrs. Frank Stranahan, trustees.

The Broward County Commissioners have provided office space at 315 Southeast Sixth Street, and a full time executive assistant, Mrs. Betty S. Campbell, has been employed. Over two hundred people, mostly pioneer residents, attended the Inaugural Dinner of the Society last May 28. Total membership is now well over two hundred, and the first regular meeting was held in October. A monthly newsletter, "New River News," is supplied to all members.

The Society is now actively engaged in an oral history project, and is building its library. Donations of historical material dealing with Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, and the state of Florida are welcomed.

*St. Joseph Historical Society:* Election of officers held on last March 3, saw Mrs. Ned S. Porter being selected for another year as president of the Society. Other officers elected were Jesse V. Stone, vice president; Mrs. Robert Majors, recording secretary; Mrs. Hubert Brinson, corresponding secretary; William H. Howell, Jr., treasurer; and Charles B. Smith, publicity director. The Society has recently been conducting inquiries into the feasibility of organizing a Gulf County Historical Commission, dedicated to the purpose of marking and preserving historical sites in the county. The Society has already requested the County Commission to assist in marking several sites.

Among recent acquisitions of interest is a bill of sale for the Iola and Lake Wimico and St. Joseph railroads, sold to William Gray on August 11, 1842. The Society also has now collected twelve portraits of the signers of Florida's first constitution. This is believed to be the largest group thus far assembled. Two early framed maps of the St. Joseph area have been loaned to the city of Port St. Joe and are hung in the Chamber room of the Municipal Building.

*Florida Civil War Centennial Commission*

The Commission has been issuing on a monthly basis since 1960 a leaflet titled *Florida A Hundred Years Ago*. Edited by Dr. Samuel Proctor of the University of Florida, the leaflet is a record of military operations in and around Florida on almost a day-to-day basis. It has a circulation of more than 4,000 a month, mostly in the state, but also to persons in almost every other state of the Union and in several foreign countries. Interested persons may secure copies from the Commission at 208 Valencia Avenue, Coral Gables, 34, Florida.

*Harry S. Truman Library*

The Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri, continues to add to its holdings of source materials in recent American history. A recent addition of note was a collection of Truman administration photographs from the Potsdam Conference of 1945. Tape recorded materials continue to be added to the oral history holdings and transcripts of the materials will be made available to researchers. Grants-in-aid to scholars who wish to study at the Library are available from the Harry S. Truman Library Institute. Applications should be made to the Director, Philip C. Brooks.

*Hall of Fame*

In June, pictures of the three Floridians who were selected to the Florida Public Relations Association Hall of Fame were unveiled in the Florida State Chamber of Commerce Building in Jacksonville. The pictures were of former Jacksonville Mayor John T. Alsop, Carl Graham Fisher, and Harold Colee, executive vice president of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce. The Hall of Fame recognizes those who had made an outstanding contribution to Florida's growth and progress through the media of public relations and advertising. Others whose pictures are hanging include Steve Hannigan, Richard Pope, Governor LeRoy Collins, John Ringling, Nathan Mayo, Henry M. Flagler, W. C. Ray, Sr., and W. M. Davidson. Dr. Samuel Proctor serves as historical consultant for the Commission.

*N.S.P.C.B.*

One of the more interesting new organizations on the national scene is the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. Dedicated to the preservation of these historic structures, it makes its headquarters in Boston. Two dollars brings membership and the privilege of participation in monthly meetings in Boston during the winter, as well as on-site picnics in the summer. The Society's unique journal, *Covered Bridge Topics*, may be had for an additional \$1.50, and the *World Guide to Covered Bridges* for \$2.50, all from the treasurer, Harold F. Eastman, Barton Road, Stow, Massachusetts.